

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claims 1 and 12. Please add new claim 14.

Claim 1 (currently amended): A molded article comprising an interlocking fastener component, said interlocking fastener component is made of a biodegradable resin material comprising:

a continuous phase comprising (a) at least one aliphatic polyester selected from the group consisting of polybutylene succinate and polyethylene adipate; and (b) and inorganic filler dispersed in said aliphatic polyester; and

a dispersed phase of polylactic acid, which is essentially free of said inorganic filler;

wherein said aliphatic polyester component accounts for a proportion of not less than 50% by weight of the material, and said polylactic acid is dispersed in the form of particles of diameter not more than 9 μm in said inorganic filler containing aliphatic polyester continuous phase and accounts for a proportion in the range of 5% to ~~[[45%]]~~ less than 25% by weight of the material.

Claim 2 (previously presented): The molded article according to claim 1, wherein said aliphatic polyester component accounts for a proportion in the range of 55 to 90% by weight of the material.

Claims 3-4 (canceled).

Claim 5 (previously presented): The molded article according to claim 1, wherein said inorganic filler is at least one member selected from the group consisting of talc, calcium carbonate, clay, kaolin, carbon, mica, silica, aluminum oxide, magnesium hydroxide and barium sulfate.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The molded article according to claim 1, wherein said inorganic filler contained in said continuous phase is talc.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The molded article according to claim 1, wherein said inorganic filler contained in said continuous phase is calcium carbonate.

Claim 8 (previously presented): The molded article according to claim 1, wherein said inorganic filler is present in said continuous phase in an amount of 5 to 100 parts by weight, based on 100 parts by weight of said aliphatic polyester.

Claim 9 (canceled).

Claim 10 (previously presented): The molded article according to claim 1, wherein said molded article is a slide fastener.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The molded article according to claim 1, wherein said molded article is a separable fastener.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A molded article comprising an interlocking fastener component, said interlocking fastener component is made of a biodegradable resin material comprising:

a continuous phase of at least one aliphatic polyester selected from the group consisting of polybutylene succinate and polyethylene adipate; and

a dispersed phase of polylactic acid;

wherein said aliphatic polyester component accounts for a proportion of not less than 50% by weight of the ~~material~~ material, and said polylactic acid is dispersed in the form of particle in said aliphatic polyester wherein the diameter of the particles of said polylactic acid is not more than 9 μm and accounts for a proportion in the range of 5% to ~~[[45%]]~~ less than 25% by weight of the material.

Claim 13 (canceled).

Claim 14 (new): A molded article comprising an interlocking fastener component, said interlocking fastener component is made of a biodegradable resin material comprising:

a continuous phase of at least one aliphatic polyester selected from the group consisting of polybutylene succinate and polyethylene adipate; and

a dispersed phase of polylactic acid;

wherein said aliphatic polyester component accounts for a proportion of not less than 50% by weight of the material, wherein said polylactic acid is dispersed in the form of particle in said aliphatic polyester wherein the diameter of the particles of said

polylactic acid is not more than 9 μm and accounts for a proportion in the range of 5% to 45% by weight of the material, and wherein the material does not contain an inorganic filler.